



ASSESSMENT and
QUALIFICATIONS
ALLIANCE

Mark scheme January 2003

GCE

Psychology B

Unit PYB3

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Unit 3: Practical Investigation

Skill A carries 14 marks

- A1 Aim stated – this means the candidate makes a clear statement of the purpose of the investigation rather than sweeping generalisation.
- A2 Background material – this requires that the proposed investigation is drawn from theory and/or research presented in the content of the AS modules. Enough detail must be provided to allow the examiner to see how the aim and hypotheses have arisen.
- A3 Hypothesis stated – this means either the H_0 or H_1 is appropriate and written as a testable statement.
- A4 Variables identified - this refers to the key variables presented in the H_0 or H_1 . These may or may not be an IV and DV, but must be operational.
- A5 An extraneous variable (EV) is one that may confound the results and the candidate must be aware of the possible effect in the investigation to be undertaken.
- A6 The control for the EV should be a practical suggestion and match the EV identified above.
- A7 The target population must be identified precisely, including location, so that the following skills can be assessed accurately.
- A8 Sampling method – this should produce one of the terms presented in 10.3.1 in the specification, but others which are correct should be credited.
- A9 Justification of sampling method should be clear.
- A10 Description of task and materials – this requires the candidate to explain how these were designed for the investigation.
- A11 Ethical issue identified – this means that the candidate will have considered at least one issue which is relevant to this particular study rather than a blanket description of all issues in general.
- A12 Ethical issue controlled means that the issue was addressed successfully in the design.
- A13 Procedure described – this can be credited if the examiner can follow the description presented.
- A14 Procedure replicable – this can be credited if all materials and information are presented.

There are only 2 marks available for **Skill B**, reflecting the difficulty of assessing a non-preservable skill. Credit can be given if there is detail in the reporting to support the award. This detail is expected to be presented in the Procedure subsection.

- B1 Appropriate treatment of participants – the candidate can be awarded the mark if there is some reference in the report to ethical and/or safe treatment of the participants, ie more than ‘they were treated ethically.’
- B2 Procedures carried out appropriately – this can be awarded by the examiner on the basis of the detail provided by the candidate.

Skill C carries 10 marks and covers the Results and Discussion sections of the report.

- C1 Data presented in appropriate form(s) – this means the candidate has chosen a suitable form for their data, probably from table, chart or graph.
- C2 The mark can be awarded if the form chosen was headed properly, including labelling of axes/columns.
- C3 Raw data must be converted into summary statistic(s), and evidence of calculations presented for checking, for this mark to be awarded.
- C4 However the data are summarized statistically, there should also be a verbal summary describing the direction/differences found/not found.
- C5 The results must be related to the hypothesis(es), stating which is supported. If only one is presented then the statement must relate to this.
- C6 The results must be compared with the background material.
- C7 An appropriate conclusion, not a re-statement of the results, must be drawn, based on the results presented.
- C8 A possible limitation of the investigation needs to be explored. This might be related to sample size, sampling technique, procedure or ecological validity, but needs to be more than a statement.
- C9 An appropriate suggestion for improvement must be discussed, possibly based on the limitation presented previously.
- C10 A future research aim should be presented, focusing on a change of key variable.

There are 4 marks allocated to **Skill D**.

- D1 The components given in 12.3 of the specification must all be present (each main bullet point).
- D2 Terminology relevant to the investigation must be used appropriately. This might be methodological terms or theoretical terms.
- D3 An Abstract must be present which summarises the investigation.
- D4 Reference(s) must be presented as given in the Guidance notes.